

**ARLINGTON TOWN-OWNED HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY UPDATE:  
Initial Evaluation of Buildings on Arlington's Preliminary Target Property List**  
Wendy Frontiero and Martha Lyon – 23 December 2021

Properties Recommended for Removal from Survey

The Preliminary Target Property list included with the RFP includes 10 buildings, all schools and all listed in the *Arlington Master Plan*, Appendix F: Public Facilities Inventory. Field reconnaissance undertaken from public ways in December 2021 ascertained that the following four properties contain totally new construction or have been extensively altered and are not appropriate for survey at this time:

1. Brackett Elementary School, 66 Eastern Avenue
2. Dallin Elementary School, 185 Florence Avenue
3. Peirce School, 85 Park Avenue Extension
4. Thompson Elementary School, 187 Everett Street
5. Ottoson Middle School, 63 Acton Street

Note that the Ottoson Middle School retains some historic building elements, but has been extensively and substantially altered by large-scale additions. Little historic integrity remains, and re-consideration of this property for the current survey project is recommended.

Properties Recommended to Replace Those Removed

In the spirit of the Town's proposal—to document and plan for historic public properties—we suggest the following buildings for consideration as alternates by the Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group (HCRWG):

1. Crosby School (now the Lesley Ellis School), 34 Winter Street (1895/1991)
2. Vittoria C. Dallin Branch Library (now commercial use), 85 Park Avenue (1937)
3. Fox Branch Library, 175 Massachusetts Avenue (1969)
4. Chestnut Manor, 54 Medford Street (1965)
5. Winslow Towers, 4 Winslow Street (1971)

According to the *Master Plan's* Appendix F, the first three properties on this list are still Town-owned, although only the Fox Branch Library is still in its original civic use. The Crosby School is now operated as a private, pre-K through grade 8 school. The Dallin Branch Library building is occupied by offices of Arlington Community Media, Inc. The fourth and fifth properties on this list are high-rise residential properties owned/managed by the Arlington Housing Authority, and were recommended for future survey by Arlington's *Historic Preservation Survey Master Plan Final Report* (2019, p. 40). As noted in this *Final Report*,

“Buildings originally constructed for municipal use but now in private use should be added to Appendix F, to comprehensively address the continuum of this important building type. All current and former municipal buildings that retain integrity and are not already listed in the National Register or a local historic district should be surveyed to current MHC standards, whether by developing a new inventory form or updating an existing form. Survey documentation will provide a valuable planning tool for the town when assessing building conditions, establishing appropriate maintenance plans and renovation projects, and planning for adaptive re-use or sale to private entities.” (*Historic Preservation Survey Master Plan Final Report*: 39)